



Hitch plate rides on a pair of air-loaded shock absorbers. Not only does this keep trailer from getting beat to pieces, but it also smoothes out the ride in the truck.

Air Hitch Smoothes Ride For Truck And Trailer

Since they retired, Lester Rose and his wife, Andrea, have lived on the road for the past 13 years with no permanent address (see related story on page 39). In that time they learned that the hitch pulling their travel trailer is pretty important.

The Roses travel in a 1 1/2-ton cargo van equipped as a travelling shop. Because the truck is so stiff, it destroyed the hitch on a travel trailer over a period of four years.

So, Lester invented a hitch that he says has worked perfectly for nine years. Although there are now similar hitches on the market, he thinks his hitch is "light years ahead" of anything out there.

"The hitch plate rides on a pair of air-

loaded shock absorbers," he explains. "Not only does this keep the trailer from getting beat to pieces, but it also smoothes out the ride in the truck. Since last winter, we've been pulling a 30-ft. travel trailer behind this truck that weighs in at close to 17,000 lbs. and it has worked great.

"To carry the tongue weight of the trailer, Rose runs about 180 psi to the shocks from a compressor he carries with him.

"I've never built anything that has worked so well over such a long period," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lester Rose, 2180 Pear St. S.E., Deming, New Mexico 88030 (email: lester_rose@hotmail.com).

Lift-A-Way trailer has a built-in hoist, allowing it to double as a service lift that can lift vehicles from 4 to 6 ft. high. It can handle vehicles weighing up to 8,000 lbs.



Trailer Doubles As A Service Lift

Anyone who does repair work will be interested in this new rig that allows you to make on-site service calls, and also works great as a backup hoist for shop work.

This Lift-A-Way trailer has a built-in hoist, allowing it to double as a service lift that can lift vehicles from 4 to 6 ft. high. It can handle vehicles weighing up to 8,000 lbs.

The trailer measures 25 ft. long and has a frame made from 6-in. channel iron, with the space between the frame rails left open leaving room to make repairs to the underside of the raised vehicle. The vehicle is raised by four adjustable lift legs - two on front and two on back. A pair of 3-in. dia. dual action hydraulic cylinders, equipped with safety interlock valves, do the lifting and are operated by a built-in, self-contained 110-volt hydraulic power pack.

Dual side hydraulic levers - one on each side - are used to raise the trailer. Side walkway rails provide access to either side of the engine.

The trailer is loaded via a flip-up pair of loading ramps on back. To raise the vehicle,



Trailer is loaded via a flip-up pair of loading ramps on back.

you pull a pin from each of the four legs, then hydraulically raise the unit and reinsert the pins.

Sells for \$9,300.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oldenkamp Inc., P.O. Box 630, Hull, Iowa 51239 (ph 712 439-1240; email: golden@rconnect.com; website: www.liftaway.com).

"Lift Boom" For Riding Mower

By modifying an old No. 5 hitch off an IH planter, Leonard Seltzer built a "lift boom" that makes it easy to do maintenance work on his riding mower. A 1-ton chain hoist does the lifting.

The 10-ft. long, Cat. I bridge hitch was designed to pull a field cultivator going ahead of a planter.

He started by removing the rear dolly wheel and welding a steel plate over the open end. Next, he heated the hitch plate and bent it down to conform with the shape of the boom. Then a hole was cut at the bend and a slot made to accommodate a medium duty chain, which serves as the top link hook-up. At the bottom of the boom, he removed the original clamps. Then he took the boom to a local machine shop where the holes were bored out to 1 1/8 in. for Cat. II size pins that attach to the tractor's lower lift arms. On the top end, a 3/4-in. hole was bored and a 3/4-in. I-bolt put in place to support the chain hoist.

The factory Cat. II pins were an inch short due to the thickness of the 2 by 3-in. tubing that makes up the main frame of the boom, so he made new ones on a lathe to fit the 3-pt.'s lower lift arms. To complete the hook-up, he removes the 3-pt. top link and places a chain around the original pin that held the top link.

"I use it to service my Woods model 6170 zero turn riding mower, and it works great," says Seltzer. "I put a light chain around the mower's dolly wheels and arms, then hook



Leonard Seltzer modified the hitch off an IH planter to build this "lift boom" that makes it easy to do maintenance work on his riding mower. A 1-ton chain hoist does the lifting.

the chain hoist to the chain. It's a heavy mower but the boom has no problem lifting it. I think it could be used to lift any garden tractor with up to 20 hp."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elmwood, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 (ph 815 478-3578).

Mower Hoist Makes Service Easy

"It provides me with a safe and easy way to clean the deck and sharpen the blades on my riding mower," says Arnold Hussong, Okabena, Minn., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an electric-operated hoist his son made for him. It allows him to raise his Snapper riding mower.

The hoist was built from 3-in. sq. tubing and measures 12 ft. high and wide, with the legs spread 4 ft. apart. A winch on top is powered by a 1/2 hp electric motor. Hussong attached a short length of chain to the front part of the mower, which he hooks up to the winch cable.

"I'm getting on in age and don't have the strength I used to have, so this really helps," says Hussong.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arnold Hussong, 306 N. Grove St., Okabena, Minn. 56161 (ph and fax 507 853-4591).



Electric-operated hoist allows Hussong to raise his Snapper riding mower. It measures 12 ft. high and wide, with legs spread 4 ft. apart.



Snapper has come out with a new utility vehicle (left) that's equipped with an on-board generator (right), allowing you to operate power tools right in the field. We spotted it at the recent Big Iron Show in Fargo, N. Dak. The Power Link generator system has standard electrical outlets and operates off the vehicle's 16 hp Briggs & Stratton 2-cyl. gas engine. It delivers 1,000 watts of energy. The unit mounts under the driver's seat and has a panel with a switch and throttle control on it. For more information, go to www.snapper.com or call the company at 800 935-2967.